



19 February 1959

Mr. Erwin D. Canham, Chairman  
Ad Hoc Committee on Communist  
Economic Offensive  
Chamber of Commerce of the United States  
1615 H Street, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Canham:

Thank you very much for your letter of 6 February concerning a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Communist Economic Offensive to be held at the Hay Adams Hotel on 5 March.

As I mentioned to you on the telephone this morning, March 5th is Mrs. Dulles' birthday and I have a long standing engagement for that evening with her. You were very understanding of the priorities of such a commitment; however, if your Committee desires, I should be very glad to arrange for [redacted] and [redacted] who know everything on this general subject of the Communist economic offensive that I know, and more, to be with you that evening and to contribute to the discussion in any way that you may desire.

O/DCI [redacted]:dd

Retyped: AWD/ji

1 - DCI

1 - [redacted] w/basic & encl. via DD/I —

(for return to DCI prior to 5 March)

1 - AAB

1 - ER

1 - Col. Grogan

Sincerely,

**SIGNED**

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

DOCUMENT NO. 69  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: FC S 0  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 17 Feb 81  
AUTH: HR 73-2  
DATE: 17 Feb 81 REVIEWER: [redacted]

Approved For Release 2003/03/28 : CIA-RDP80R01731R000200070104-2  
Chamber of Commerce of the United States 11-1177



1615 H STREET, N.W. • WASHINGTON 6, D. C.  
National 8-2380

February 6, 1959

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

While aware of the weight of your obligations and responsibilities, I would like to impose upon you in a matter of special concern to both of us.

Impelled by a sense of urgency, the National Chamber is taking unprecedented action in forming a small ad hoc committee of top people from the professional and business world to spell out the import of the communist economic offensive for American business. Enclosed is a list of those who have agreed to serve on the committee. I will be serving as chairman of the group.

As you can see from this list, the committee is composed of experts who are very close to the problem of Sino-Soviet aid and trade and who have given serious thought to the potential role of American business in combatting communist economic warfare.

STAT  
Could you and [redacted] as well as any other assistants you may wish to bring along, meet with this group on March 5 for dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Room 120 of the Hay Adams Hotel? We will not expect you to make a speech. Rather, we have in mind an informal and off-the-record exchange of views.

It may help you to know the objectives of the ad hoc committee. The group will try to do three things: 1) define the threat to American business posed by the Sino-Soviet economic aid and trade offensive; 2) determine the limits of practical action available to private companies and private management in countering the communist economic threat; and 3) recommend what action, if any, the National Chamber might take to help mobilize American business in the economic war with communism.

I hope you will be pleased that your speech at the National Chamber's Annual Meeting last year is beginning to bear fruit. I also hope, and earnestly so, that you will be able to accept this invitation.

Sincerely yours,

*Erwin D. Canham*

Erwin D. Canham, Chairman  
Ad Hoc Committee on Communist  
Economic Offensive

# Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America Washington

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